

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title on page 1 with the following:

PRIORITY QUEUING OF CALLERS~~**METHOD AND APPARATUS**~~
FOR QUEUING CALLERS IN A PUSH-TO-TALK CALL BASED ON
PRIORITY LEVEL DESIGNATIONS

Please replace the Abstract at page 20, line 3 with the following:

In a telecommunications system (100), a method and apparatus ~~queues for priority queuing of callers requesting an opportunity to speak during a push-to-talk call is disclosed~~based on priority. The method includes defining a group for a call in response to a user input (210, 410), assigning a priority level designation to ~~the~~ at least one participant (220, 420), and granting access to transmit speech in a push-to-talk call based on the priority level (270, 280, 290, 300). The apparatus includes a first server (150) and a second server (140) communicatively coupled to the first server. The second server is programmed to implement the steps given above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 with the following:

At the outset of the call, all of the participants in the call, except the initial speaker, are alternatively placed in the queue by the PTT server 140 (430) or they may be placed in the queue by requesting the floor via a PTT request. Preferably, as the call progresses, a call participant presses an interrupt button on mobile device 110 in an effort to acquire the ability to

speaks more immediately than in the method described above, and associated with FIG 3. A call participant typically uses an interrupt button to request the ability to speak (440) where the call participant has an urgent matter to discuss. Once the interrupt button is pressed (440), the PTT server 140 sends a message to the current speaker that one of the call participants wants to interrupt the call on an urgent basis (450). After the message is received by the mobile device 110 of the current speaker, the current speaker has the option of allowing the call participant initiating the request to speak or placing the call participant into the queue (460). The current speaker exercises this option by manipulating a predetermined interface on mobile device 110. If the current speaker elects to allow the call participant initiating the interrupt request to speak, the call participant is granted the ability to speak by the PTT server 140 (470) and a message is sent by the PTT server 140 to all or a select set of the mobile devices 110 participating in the call indicating a change in speaker is set to occur (480). If the call participant is not granted the ability to speak, that is transmit her speech to the others, then the caller is placed in the queue to await her turn based on the assigned priority level. The above described process repeats every time an interrupt request is initiated until the call is ended (490).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 22 with the following:

The voice packet buffering on the initial speech burst described above provides a desired effect in that the perceived time to the beginning of speech transmission from a PTT request is reduced. However, buffering the voice packets in general is not preferred and, after the buffer holding the initial burst is emptied, subsequent voice packets are not buffered, but instead are duplicated by the media duplicator 150 (650) and immediately transmitted by the media duplicator 150 to each of the mobile devices 110 participating in the call-(660).